जितनी मुम्बई की आई हैं, उसकी ओर अनदेखी न हो, यह भी देखने की जरूरत है और मैं समझता हूं कि केन्द्र सरकार इस दायित्व के बारे में भी सतर्क रहे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before I call the next speaker, I request the hon. Defence Minister to make a statement on his recent visit to the United States.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

New framework for U.S. - India defence relationship

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make a statement on U.S. India Defence Relationship.

Sir, I made an official visit to the United States of America (USA)recently at the end of June 2005 at the invitation of the US Secretary of Defence. The visit provided an opportunity for an exchange of views with the US leadership on international security issues and to promote cooperation with the US to strengthen and modernise our armed forces and our defence industries through increased professional interaction in the military sphere and collaboration in the sphere of defence equipment and technology in the mutual interest of both countries. A document entitled 'New Framework for the US-India Defence Relationship' was signed during the visit. The 'Framework' contains only enabling provisions. It does not contain any commitments or obligations.

The 'Framework' updates the 'Agreed Minutes on Defence Relations between India and the United States' signed in January 1995. It identifies global security threats that have seriously affected our security, such as terrorism and violent religious extremism, and the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and related materials, data and technologies as areas of shared concern, and provides for cooperation with the US to enhance our capabilities in responding to these and prospects of cooperation in advanced and sensitive technologies and other challenges like natural disasters. It reflects our interest in the security of the sea-lanes and regional and global security and stability. It establishes a new Defence Procurement and Production Group under the existing Defence Policy Group to promote a defence trade, production and technology relationship with the United States. It also provides for a dialogue on international security issues,

and cooperation with the international community to promote regional and global stability through cooperative actions in the mutual interest.

The visit builds on ongoing efforts to expand cooperation with the US in the field of high technology by opening up the US as a potential source of advanced defence equipment and technology, increasing our options and leverage *vis-a-vis* suppliers in the acquisition of defence technology, promoting cooperation with the US to enhance the capabilities of India's Armed forces and defence industries and increasing our strategic manoeuvrability in international affairs.

The 'Framework' document should be seen in this context. Concerns expressed in Parliament and in the press on the implications of the document have included apprehensions that it commits India to deploying troops in support of US-led coalition operations in Iraq and possibly elsewhere; that it adopts vocabulary and language, and therefore the world view, of the United States; and that it promotes US security interests and not ours, and therefore compromises our security. None of these apprehensions are justified. The document, more than anything else, signals US willingness to enhance defence cooperation with India and strengthen our defence capabilities. It is in our interest to see how we can exploit this change of attitude to our advantage. It is an enabling document that provides a framework within which specific cooperation can take place. It is up to us how we develop this. This will not be dictated to us. It will be decided by mutual agreement

The presumption that "shared" interests involving the US must necessarily mean primacy to US interests, reflects a lack of self-confidence in ourselves. As a trustee of the legacy of independence, secularism, non-alignment and autonomy and independence on our domestic and foreign policies, we have the self-confidence that we will be able to recognise and resist anything that is not in our national interest, not confuse US interests with ours, or subordinate our interests to US interests.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No clarifications now; clarifications would be next week after discussion.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Sir, I think, it was discussed in the BAC meeting also that both, the Prime Minister's statement as well as the Defence Minister's statement, would be expanded into a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That would be discussed in the next BAC meeting.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: When we take up the Prime Minister's Statement, we can also refer to the Statement by the Defence Minister.

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश पचौरी) : सरकार इस पर चर्चा करने के लिए तैयार है।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : That is for the House to decide.

SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN (Nominated): Sir, the hon. Minister tells us that there is a Framework Document which can be seen. We do not have the Framework Document. I take it that we have the Framework Document somewhere.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is available in the Library.

SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN: That is all, thank you.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The Loss of human lives, properties and business in Mumbai and other parts of Maharshtra due to unprecedented rains and the relief measures undertaken by Government with regard thereto - *Contd.*

श्री मुरली सीताराम देवरा (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं अपने साथी श्री प्रमोद महाजन जी को बहुत धन्यवाद करुंगा कि वे ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव इस सभा में लाए। मैं उनको इसलिए भी धन्यवाद करुंगा कि मुम्बई शहर के नागरिकों को जो ट्रिब्यूट इन्होंने दिया कि किस तरह से कठिनाइयों में आने के बावजूद वे इन कठिनाइयों का सामना कर रहे हैं। मुझे दुख हुआ जब श्री प्रमोद महाजन जी ने शंघाई और वेनिस की बात की। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा जरूर कि मुम्बई को हम शंघाई बनाएंगे।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री फाली एस. नारीमन) पीठासीन हुए]

लेकिन मुम्बई की आज वेनिस के साथ तुलना करना, जब हजारों लाखों नागरिक समुद्र के अंदर डूबे हुए जैसे लग रहे हैं, मुझे लग रहा है कि यह आपका ध्येय नहीं था और नहीं करते तो तब मुझे लगता कि अच्छा होता। जो अनप्रिसीडेंटेड रेन -- बारिश ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : यह आपका सहयोगी पक्ष तकलीफ दे रहा है, यहां भी देता है, वहां भी देता है।

श्री मुरली सीताराम देवरा : आपने कहा कि एक दिन में 910, 920 मिलीमीटर बारिश 26 तारीख की रात को तथा 27 तारीख से पहले हुई, लेकिन इसकी एक और दूसरी महत्वपूर्ण